

JUSTIN WASSER: My name is Justin Wasser, and I work for the Sierra club, speaking on my own account. Sharing personal story today. I live here in Pittsburgh. So at the top, two main issues I'd like to address. First, well, the first is the reform, reclamation bonding. And reforming bonding. And the second is assessing externalities. On the bonding. Personally, I grew up about 72 miles east of here in a mining area. I played on what we call bony piles, slag heap. And I think I was 11 before I realized it's not natural for certain streams to be orange. The process on any land of reclamation is an absolute failure. It's a failure to the communities on the terms of quality of life and to their health. Where I grow up or grew up, one of my family lives there, there are higher rates of cancer, of heart disease, of issues that scientific consensus shows, they may not say it's a direct correlation, but definitely the lack of cleaning up after mining, after burning and transporting coal contributes to it. The Youghiogheny and the Conemaugh Rivers, it's a story of two rivers that are near by here. The Yough had some mining issues and through state, federal and non-profit investments over the last 10 years has become what some people have called the Madison River, a famous river out west for trout fishing. The Madison River of the east. That has brought all kinds of funding and tourism to the area. Now, the Conemaugh River, not too far off from there, where I'm from, is not bringing in tourism, is not attracting people. People aren't fishing on that river because of the problems with reclamation. On assessing externalities, with just 30 seconds, I'd like to say that I'm 28 years old and staring into a future of dealing with global warming, climate change and the catastrophes that could come. And I think it is time that the BLM review the scientific consensus on the effects of mining and burning what's extracted out of federal lands, and those externalities far into the future of the time, energy and finances we are going to have to put in to clean up the mess from today. Thank you.